



February 1, 2010

Mr. Paul Stacey
Bureau of Water Protection
CT DEP
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE
OFFICE OF THE BUREAU CHIEF

FEB 03 2010

RE: Stream Flow Regulations

Dear Mr. Stacey:

I've been pleased to see that Connecticut finally issued their draft stream flow regulations to protect more streams for both people and aquatic life. The Department of Environmental Protection knows that water should be managed for the benefit of all..

To this end, please do not let these regulations be weakened by those with a narrow use or need (e.g. water utilities). Connecticut has plenty of water; the needs of human consumption in a localized area should not outweigh the great value of maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems. In addition, I am particularly concerned by the provision of "Class 4 Streams." It appears that this provision opens the door to write off certain streams be allowing them to run dry or low enough that the aquatic ecosystem would not be able to function. Please remove this provision or strengthen the protections. I do believe that other sources can be found; it comes down to the value we place on cheap water or our environment. Streams are too valuable to be so cheaply spent.

Over and over we see ecosystems dying the "death of a thousand cuts" because we cannot make a readjustment in our way of life, neglecting the fact that our "small change" to an aquatic ecosystem may remove a key species and cause cascading effects. Connecticut's streams and rivers are already strained by years of pollution, damming, and human development. Recent efforts have brought some heavily polluted streams back, and dam removals are opening passage to migrating species. Let's not take a step back for stream health by removing or reducing flows in streams. Keep the protective language in the stream flow regulations and strengthen protections in the Class 4 provision. Connecticut's streams are a public trust for all, not just the water utilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martha M. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" and "S".

Martha M. Smith

Martha Smith
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New Haven, CT 06511

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